

Jeff Response
2/13/02
J. O'Neil
PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 168567/RALV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

CONNORS et al.

Application No. 09/091,508

Art Unit: 1723

Filed: October 30, 1998

Examiner: M. Ocampo

For: SEPARATION ARRANGEMENT

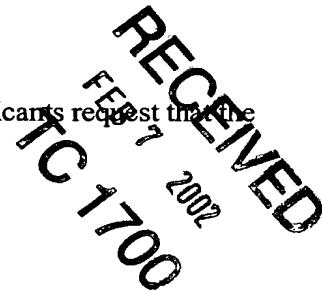
RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 9, 2001, Applicants request that the following remarks be considered.

REMARKS



The following remarks are believed responsive to the points raised by the Office Action dated November 9, 2001. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 14-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,984,325 to Rosaen (hereinafter referred to as "Rosaen") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,543,047 to Stoyell et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Stoyell") and U.S. Patent No. 4,228,012 to Pall (hereinafter referred to as "Pall"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Rosaen, the primary reference, is directed to a filter device wherein a single filter cartridge having blind end caps is used for filtration and can be replaced with another single cartridge having blind end caps. The filter device disclosed in Rosaen is completely different from the separation element defined in claim 1, including two or more pack sections and joiner caps, adjacent joiner caps being secured to coaxially connect the pack sections and joiner caps into a hollow separation arrangement being at least about 40 inches in length and having an interior diameter of at least about 2 inches.

In the present invention as defined in claim 1, two or more pack sections are connected together by joiner caps to form a hollow separation arrangement, such that